

## Legal Aid

In an attempt to combine a necessary social service with a resultant educational value, the legal aid division of the Ohio State Student Bar Association was created. Such division fulfills a twofold need. First: the giving of legal assistance to those persons, too poor to hire an attorney. Secondly: to enable students to make practical use of their knowledge in the actual interviewing of clients and the active preparation of cases.

In order to reach only those deserving assistance with their legal problems and to prevent any infringement upon the practicing attorney, the legal aid division accepts clients only after investigation and recommendation by an active relief organization, the Family Relief Bureau. Then the student is given his opportunity. The client is shown into the office and interviewed by the student. After he feels that sufficient questioning has been presented to bring out the salient facts, the client is dismissed and a later appointment made. Then the type of case and its possibilities are gone over by the student, only those cases being accepted which are felt to be legally ethical. When accepted, the student prepares the case, draws pleadings, interviews witnesses, and attends the trial, under the guidance of a practicing attorney, appointed for such purpose by the legal aid chairman of the Barrister's club.

Out of approximately forty applications for aid, one-fourth will be dismissed completely or referred to practicing attorneys. Of the remaining thirty, about one-half will be accepted for immediate consideration, while the remainder will necessitate further investigation.

Though a practicing attorney is required to act in court, several cases appear which may be completely handled by the student alone. Such cases may involve issues triable before a justice of peace, or merely ministerial functions, such as the drawing of wills and other instruments.

The work of the division may perhaps best be illustrated by the following, an actual case: *Smith v. Jones, et al.* The plaintiff had helped the defendant's tenant cut his corn upon the oral promise of the defendant's agent that the defendant would give the plaintiff some fodder. The agent never noti-

fied the defendant of his promise and upon demand by plaintiff, refused to perform. The plaintiff, who was on relief and totally without funds, came into the clinic for aid and his case was accepted, two students being assigned to it. After an unsuccessful attempt to settle the dispute out of court, an action in replevin was brought and the fodder attached. The students then appeared before a justice of the peace and presented the case, getting a verdict and obtaining 90 shocks of fodder for their client.

The division is completely governed by students assisted by faculty members. The student organization is comprised of a chairman, vice chairman and committee, who assists in directing the administration of the section. The students engaged in the work are both receiving and giving value, and the organization is such that the legal aid division acts as a tilting ground where prospective lawyers may practice without fear of serious results.

Its objects are being admirably realized and those interested in its activities look forward to its ever increasing expansion.

JULIUS SCHLEZINGER

## Moot Court

The Moot Court is under the supervision of the Committee on Law School Affairs. Its procedure is simple. Three judges, who are usually seniors, sit in the capacity of an appellate court to hear arguments on moot cases. The attorneys for the respective parties in these cases are the members of the first and second year classes. Participation in Moot Court is beneficial to the student in three ways. In the first place, it gives him the experience of facing a specific problem and collecting the rules of law and the statutory enactments that will, in his mind, govern the decision of the court. Secondly, he is asked to arrange his arguments and material into a brief to present to the court, as is the usual requirement of all courts of appellate jurisdiction. In the third place, he is given the privilege of standing before the court and orally presenting his case. It would appear that the latter is the most important of the three,